

## THE MESSAGE

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JOHN BEAL, Editor and Proprietor.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1899.

QUINCY JAMES of near Rush Hill will be in the field for Sheriff. James is a clever, whole-souled fellow, thoroughly honest, and no doubt would make a most efficient officer.

A MANILLA saloonkeeper can't dip out the drinks fast enough. Says he could find market for fifty cars of American beer per week. "Benevolent assimilation," don't yer know.

SENATOR THILMAN thinks that at the present time the Senate would vote down the Declaration of Independence and the Ten Commandments if a resolution embodying them were offered by a Democrat.

THERE have been over 3,000 killed, wounded and missing American soldiers in the Philippine war up to the present. Only one item in the cost of "benevolent assimilation," but do you call it a small one?

SECRETARY GAGE submits a report for deficiencies in appropriations for the current fiscal year, on account of the war in the Philippines, aggregating more than \$50,000,000. Good people, we'll have to keep licking war stamps yet for some time to come. That's a taste of what imperialism brings.

GOV. LON V. STEVENS is feeling around to ascertain if the people want a special session of the legislature for the enactment of a law taxing franchises. No, Gov., we don't want it—the extra session. Don't you remember what these same members of the legislature failed to do last year? They'd fail again likely, and the experience would be too costly.

QUEEN VICTORIA has been almost beside herself of late on account of the British reverses in South Africa. Lord Wolsey tried to console her the other day by saying that nations need war for discipline, whereupon the Queen rebuked him, saying: "War is only justifiable to establish peace, and for no other end." Poor Vic, she is sorry now she gave consent for the war.

THE college of agriculture of the University of Missouri has announced the program for the short course from January 2 to March 23. The course is open without examination to all over 16 years old. Lectures are given on crop growing, stock breeding, stock judging and stock feeding, dairying, fruit growing and kindred topics. The MESSAGE would like to see a number from Audrain County in attendance upon this school.

THE President has the distribution of more than 100,000 offices at his disposal. This is overdoing the thing; there should be a change. The temptation of this patronage makes the President virtually dictator of his party. It is a power not wielded by any sovereign of Europe. It is a dangerous condition and has no right in a republic. Take away this one-man power, and besides extend the President's term to six years and make him ineligible to re-election.

HAVE you noticed how the MESSAGE spells certain words? Here is the list: Program, tho, altho, thoro, thorefore, thru, thruout, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog. Thirty letters saved in twelve words. It is by resolution of the National Teachers' Association. Some may think it little short of criminal that the pedagogs should propose to shorten the decalog, but most of us will agree that the public could spare even a greater portion of the demagogue. However we like the saving. Preserve the list. You will find the new spelling followed by most all the educational and scientific publications of the country.

The Southern Railway of the State of Georgia has issued an order that all employees must stop using cigarettes or resign their positions. Getting after the boys about right.

MEXICO will never be what she should be until she has more factories. Meanwhile, we are waiting too much for something to turn up. We need two or three Brees who will turn their money loose also.

HON. M. R. K. BIGGS, of near Farber, will be a candidate for the State Senate, as will be seen from a quotation elsewhere in the MESSAGE taken from the Farber Forum. Mr. Biggs is a worthy man and would make a most dutiful official.

THE expansion of our commerce should not be dependent upon a policy of imperialism involving subjugation and annexation of Asiatic colonies, argues Congressman DeArmond of Missouri, and so we all say. Let's expand our commerce, but there are other expansions we will be better off without.

THE papers are saying some very nice things indeed in reference to the candidacy of Hon. C. F. Clark for the State Senate. None of these things are said amiss, for the more you see of Mr. Clark the more apparent becomes his qualifications and worthiness to fill this important office. Mr. Clark is a man of the people, and no mistake.

SENATOR JONES, chairman of the national Democratic committee, is hopeful of Democratic success next year and expresses himself in these words: "The Democratic party never faced a brighter prospect of success in the national election than it does now. The encouraging conditions of today and the conditions we had to meet four years ago are not to be compared. Any Republican who speaks honestly will tell you that the outlook is infinitely better now than it was then, and we came mighty near scaring the other fellows then."

WE always did think ex-Speaker Reed a better fellow than some people would make believe. We will think more of him than ever if he finally comes over to the Democratic party. Hear the following news item sent out from Washington: "Ex-Speaker Reed is having considerable business in Washington these days, and he is extremely cordial to former acquaintances. He avoids interviews, but in the privacy of the clubs and his apartments at the hotel he lets himself out. From the occasional quotations that find their way into circulation it is painfully evident that he is a very much soured individual and is highly displeased with the Washington administration. Not only does he seem to have gone nearly over to the enemy and the colonial proposition, but to the question of the tariff as well. For twenty years he was in entire accord with the Republican party on this question, oftentimes taking the lead in legislation along protection lines. He has apparently undergone a change of heart on that issue and his remarks as quoted reflect a general leaning toward free trade. He is clearly out of tune with the Republican party, a fact which probably had much to do with his withdrawal from congress."

### General Lawton's Patriotism.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.  
Gen. Lawton did his duty as a soldier. He obeyed orders and went to his death in a war which he abhorred.  
When he arrived in the Philippines and saw what was going on bluntly spoke his mind about "this damnable war," as he called it.  
His last words to his wife when he took leave of her for the last time were to the effect that when he got through there he meant to enlist in the Transvaal. He loved liberty, and only a sense of duty to the nation, which ordains that a soldier shall not have opinions, kept him at his post in an unholy war. He looked forward to service with the Boers, where he might put his heart into his act.  
Lawton was a simple soldier, but he did not surrender his judgment or sense of right. He was a true American, loving liberty and hating tyranny. He stands in shining contrast to the syndicate politicians who sent him to his doom.  
Gen. Lawton's heart was right.

### Hon. C. F. Clark.

According to a well-established precedent in the nomination of the candidate for the senate from this district, this is Audrain's time to name the man, and we are glad to know that she has in view for that important office such splendid material as the Hon. C. F. Clark, whose reputation as a legislator of real merit in the lower house during the last two revising sessions needs no comment here.

Gov. FISKE is at it again up in Michigan. He wants the railroads to pay their share of the taxes, and he has called the Legislature in extra session to see what can be done about it. The Governor has tried this action before but failed. The railroads always come out neck and heels ahead of him to get the stakes. This suggests the question again, shall the government control the railroads or the railroads control the government? The people will attend to this in due time. It will not only be government control but government ownership if the railroads persist as at present.

Dr. Bachman, Dentist, north side square. 3m

Centralia Courier: W. R. McBride has sold 120 acres of the Rawlings farm north of town, to Francis McDonald, of near Sturgeon, for \$3,500, and 60 acres to Joe Riggs for \$1,500.

There were gatherings at all of Mexico's churches in honor of Christmas. Santa Claus remembered the children. The Salvation Army gave a big Christmas dinner for the poor.

The Brookfield Gazette tells that Ella Ewing, the Missouri girl, has an offer for an engagement in Europe, and may cross the ocean for the purpose of showing the people over there what may be done in the way of growth on Missouri soil and in a Missouri climate.

Dr. J. C. Hearne, of San Diego, California, formerly of Hannibal, has been granted a divorce from Mrs. A. J. Stillwell. A. J. Stillwell was a rich meat merchant at Hannibal and was murdered one night with an ax. Many MESSAGE readers will remember the famous trial at Bowling Green of Mrs. Hearne, the wife, accused of the murder, but she was cleared.

### Knows The People's Needs.

The News desires to say that the legislative career of Hon. C. F. Clark is known, not only in this district but throughout the State, as a representative of all the people, possessing the ability to know the people's needs and the indomitable will and courage to prosecute their rights in a legislative body.

A correspondent writing from New Hope in the Shator Index says: "Mr. Hoving, who had the J.T. Rhoades farm rented the past year, will move his family to his farm near Mexico, Mo. Mr. Hoving paid a cash rent of \$500 for 270 acres of land. The most conservative said he would never make it, but he did. He has sold something over \$2,000 worth of farm products to say nothing of his living, pasturage, etc. He and his two sons, aged 15 and 17, did all the work."

Alonzo Fox and Miss Annie Maxwell, both of near Rush Hill, were married in Mexico Christmas day by Rev. A. A. Wallace.

Reading Oxford Bibles. It is calculated that the skins of more than 100,000 animals are used annually in binding Oxford Bibles.

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Peculiar Method of Suicide.

A peculiar way of committing suicide is said to be practiced by the African tribes who dwell near Lake Nyassa. When a despondent tribesman tires of life he wades into the lake and patiently waits until an alligator approaches and kills him.

Woman's Strong Left Arm.

About twenty-four women in 100 are stronger in the left arm than they are in the right; women, too, are more frequently equally strong in both arms than are men.

Insignificant Wounds.

A Berlin physician has written an article on the dangers resulting from what are considered insignificant wounds. For instance, in thirteen wounds to the thumb, permanent disability followed in 60 per cent.

Population of the Transvaal.

The population of the South African republic consists of 63,000 Boers, 87,000 other whites, called outlanders, and 600,000 Kaffirs and Zulus.

## The Only Clothing!

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PROF. F. L. BRUCE has been appointed by Gov. Stevens as School Commissioner of Audrain County. Prof. French Strother resigned. The appointment is a good one. Prof. Bruce is a thorough teacher, full of youthful vigor and ambition to rise, and the appointment will meet with earnest approval throughout the county.

While no man objects to the official honors paid to the memory of gallant Gen. Henry W. Lawton, who was killed in the Philippines last week, and who was as brave an officer as ever wore a uniform, thousands object to the pique war on those islands, which is costing this country the lives of such men as Lawton. It is all right to issue a general order announcing his death and praising his record, and to contribute money to pay off the mortgage on the home of his widow and children, but that does not hide the fact that he lost his life in a war that might have been avoided.

BEFORE the adjournment of Congress for the Christmas recess important resolutions were offered in both House and Senate by democrats, dealing with the Philippine question. Senator Bacon's resolution is being much talked of. It meets all the objections which have been raised to our leaving the Philippines, and allowing the natives to establish an independent government. It provides that this government shall declare its intention and secure a guarantee of the perpetual independence of the islands through treaties with the leading nations of the world, which would do away with the possibility of fighting among European nations to secure possession of the islands, should we withdraw, which has been held up by many as one of the principal reasons why we should keep the islands. It was Senator Bacon who drew up the democratic resolution at the last session of Congress, which was only defeated by the vote of the Vice President.

MEXICO is pulling for the location of the Home for the Feeble mind. The ground to be used is the matter in charge of the Kansas City, Mo. The following from Mexico speak of Mexico: C. R. Lepton, Gen. Roberts, A. S. H. Austin, J. A. Potts, H. C. Edmonds, A. C. B. R. E. D. Graham, R. M. White, C. F. Clark, S. S. Wallace, F. R. J. S. J. W. Clark, J. S. Grand, J. A. Jackson, S. M. Locke.

"Grandma" James, aged 70 years, mother of Quincy James, near Rush Hill, died last Saturday and was buried Sunday at Ladonia.

Russians' Extravagance. The wealthy Russians are said to be extremely profitable to hotel and shopkeepers in the lands in which they are traveling. A Swiss authority states that 200 Russians will spend more in a month than 1,000 English men and women for the same period of time.

The Walking Fish. The "walking fish" of Santa Catalina Island, California, is a member of the Pedicellata tribe, and has suckers among the gill-veins of the Mexican gulf. Its pectoral fins are shaped so as to serve for legs, and it can rest on them so as to snap its prey. It builds a nest of seaweed.

No Women Are Admitted. No female visitors are allowed to go through the Camps' yard in Philadelphia because every time a woman passes through the shops every one of the 7,000 workmen raises his eyes from his work, and in one minute one man's work for a fortnight is lost to his employers.

Proboscis Sent Away. A Polydora bridge was conspicuous by his absence during the wedding festivities. As soon as negotiations are opened with the family of the bride, the young man is "sent into the bush," and there he is obliged to stay until the wedding ceremonies are completed.

Sentinel Legislation. Western Australia has an act in force prohibiting the landing of any one who cannot write out a given passage in English.

Dog Tax Improves City Parks. In Kansas City, by an arrangement with the municipal authorities, one-half of the sum collected from the dog tax is given to the club women of the city, who use it to beautify the city parks and for other improvements. The rule has obtained for two years, and the club women have expended \$2,500 on parks.

Barth's Sacred Tree. The oldest tree on earth with an authenticated history is the great blue tree of Borneo. For twenty centuries it has been sacred to the Buddha, and no person is allowed to touch the trunk. When the leaves fall they are carried away as relics by pilgrims.

Cold Water a Stimulant. According to a high authority, cold water is a valuable stimulant to many. If not all, people, its action on the heart is more stimulating than brandy. It has been known to raise the pulse from seventy-six to over a hundred.

Honey Baths for Gums. All precious stones are purified by a bath in honey, according to an old idea. Many curious customs are current in regard to gems, as for instance, that the agate smoothes the throat, and if put into the mouth, allays fever.

Scotland's Lighthouse Station. Scotland seems a strange place to find a statue of Abraham Lincoln, and yet there is one there. It adorns a monument erected in old Galton burying ground, Edinburgh, in the memory of the Scottish Americans who fought in the American civil war.

Iron in India. The little island of Elba, once celebrated as the temporary abiding place of the great Napoleon, has recently come into prominence in a new way. Years ago deposits of iron were discovered on the island, but the mines were never worked. Now, where once Napoleon reigned in solitary state, great smelters and machine shops have been set up and the whole island is alive with the hum of industry.

A Disappearing River. One of the strangest streams in the world is in East Africa. It flows in the direction of the sea, but never reaches it. Just north of the equator, and when only a few miles from the Indian ocean, it flows into a desert, where it suddenly and completely disappears.

As a Day of Rest. Each day of the week has served as a day of rest somewhere—Sunday among Christians, Monday with the Greeks, Tuesday with the Persians, Wednesday with the Assyrians, Thursday with the Egyptians, Friday with the Turks, and Saturday with the Hebrews.

Magnetism in Rocks. From time to time experts have noticed certain unexplainable peculiarities in magnetic instruments in various buildings. Electricians now declare, as the result of experiments and investigations, that these variations are due to the presence of magnetism in rocks. They are made of earthy matter containing a great or less proportion of magnetic iron ore.

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Tobacco Growing.

A contributor to National Stockman gives the following brief instructions for tobacco growing: Preparation of the soil should be thorough, the disk or catenary is probably the favorite instrument, and the soil is worked until it is in perfect condition. Some soils, loose and "moaty" in nature, are better if compacted with drag and roller, but in general the soil can be properly fitted with disk and catenary harrow.

Manuring.—Well rotted stable manure is the ideal fertilizer for the tobacco grower, but fresh manure, while it stimulates the plant into a quick, vigorous growth, does not make a good quality of leaf, and if used should in all cases be spread on the land and plowed under. Rotted manure may be spread on top with a liberal hand, or may even be used in the hill, the latter not being the usual practice, although the manure can be made a great deal further by it.

Fertilizers.—In nearly all extensive producing sections the supply of stable manure is far short of the needs of our crop, and "plant food in a bag" is used quite extensively. Generally speaking, these goods are bought without a proper knowledge of the needs of the crop, and usually the sale is made by the agent with the pliant tongue. If the land has had from six to ten good loads of stable manure plowed under, a fertilizer carrying 3 or 4 per cent ammonia, 8 to 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 4 or 5 per cent actual potash, used in the hill at the rate of 250 to 400 pounds per acre, will produce a good crop of tobacco, but let me repeat what I wrote some years ago—"Few farmers really need to purchase ammoniated fertilizers for tobacco."

Distance of Planting.—For cigar leaf, where a fine wrapper is desired, the crop is often planted as close as 12 by 32 inches, and the distance varies from this—very close planting—to the Miami valley plan of 16 or 18 by 36 inches for cigar leaf. For White Burley the usual distance is 28 or 30 by 44 inches, excepting on hill-sides, where it is planted 22 by 48 inches. The hills are made the same as for cabbage or tomatoes, and most planters like to have their hills made a few days in advance of a season as the plants live better in hills a week or two old. Especially if fertilizers have been used. Getting out—in some cases, those large transplanting machines are used, but it is safe to say that for per cent of the crop is set by hand, no special directions are necessary, the same care being used as in setting cabbage, tomato or other vegetable plants. In pulling plants great care must be used to avoid injury to the remaining plants, by "running" them up as dirty plants do not grow at all well. Children do the drooping, and it is well to keep them close to the pattern, as the wind and sun damage the roots of a tobacco plant in a very little time. "Cultivation" about June 15.

Wire Fences and Vines. It is very gratifying to note that the old hedge-row is fast going, on the approach of the wire fence, and I am inclined to think that the later makes of such fence are going to be much more present. A acre might now—wires broken and seldom repaired. The wild grape is one of the plants that delight in the change, and other plants will follow no doubt. From a decorative standpoint, this is more than welcome, as there is never a more refreshing sight in the landscape than a big wild grapevine, says John Chamberlain in Country Gentleman. The Virginia creeper will also be in the new "swim," and also the nightshade (Solanum dulcamara), with its elegant purple flowers and red berries. If the wire will bear them, there are many vines that ought to be included; for instance, the bitter-sweet, as well as many vines that are now seen only about dwellings.

I shall of course be accused of impractical sentiment if I try to make a point in favor of leading wire fences with something that may shorten their lives and is at most merely decorative. Well, the birds will be with me at least, and together we are a tolerable majority. There is a general complaint the country over that the birds are disappearing. I have never seen much worried on this point, but if farmers really want to cultivate birds as well as fields, they can do no better than to provide them a shelter in this way. What have they to say about it?

Conserving Soil Moisture.—Some careful experiments by the Kansas station to test the relative efficiency of different kinds of culture in conserving soil moisture showed that simple plowing while the soil was in good condition was as efficacious as plowing followed by plucking, rolling, harrowing or sub-surface packing. Disking was found to be a good means of saving moisture, but was not equal to plowing. The importance of plowing stubble ground as early as possible, while moisture is still in the soil, was shown by experiment in two years. Early plowing left the ground in good condition, as regards soil moisture, for wheat seeding, while late plowing was damageously dry. The soil, say of the dry soil or dust which is the superiority in the long run over a straw mulch were strikingly shown.

The wild cabbage of the shores of Denmark is the ancestor progenitor of our domestic cabbage.